

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 AGR-10 L-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 SP-02 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

/044 W

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O R 191550Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2697

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0602

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

BEIRUT FOR AGATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA TITLE I, PL 480 WHEAT AND RICE

REF: A. STATE 034826; B. BEIRUT 2083

1. SUMMARY: AGATT FEB 19 AGAIN REVIEWED WITH SARG WHEAT AND RICE PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS PL 480 PROCEDURES. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CABLED DIRECTLY TO SYRIAN EMBASSY/WASHINGTON TO REQUEST PA'S FROM USDA. WE CONVINCEDMQWL PARTIES WELL AWARE OF PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS. URGE USDA ISSUANCE OF PA'S ON FEB 20 AS THIS IS 90 DAYS FROM SIGNATURE OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. FAS/USDA SHOULD CALL SARG EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND ARRANGE FOR EMBASSY COMPLETION OF PA REQUESTS SO PA'S CAN BE ISSUED IMMEDIATELY. WE ALSO NEED CABLED TEXTS OF SAMPLE TENDERS (SEE PARA 2 BELOW).  
END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH TAFCO AND GENERAL ORGANIZATION FOR CEREALS AND MILLS (GOCM) ADVISED BY AGATT PITCHER THAT PRIOR APPROVAL OF TENDERS BY USDA WILL BE REQUIRED PER REF A. BOTH TAFCO AND GOCM NEED SOONEST COPIES OF USDA APPROVED SAMPLE TENDERS FOR WHEAT AND RICE FROM EMBASSY DAMASCUS AS  
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THEY BELIEVE TRANSMITTAL TIME MAY BE QUICKER THAN FROM

SARG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST STATE OR USDA CABLE US IMMEDIATELY TEXTS OF SAMPLE WHEAT AND RICE TENDERS, OR IF TOO LENGTHY, CABLE IMPORTANT PORTIONS THEREOF AND GIVE FULL TEXTS TO DENNIS CHANDLER, AID/W SYRIAN DESK OFFICER, WHO ARRIVING DAMASCUS FEB 23.

3. TAFCO'S DIRECTOR HADDAD ADVISED AGATT THAT HE IS CABLING DIRECTLY TO SARG EMBASSY WASHINGTON FEB 19 TO REQUEST FROM USDA PA FOR US NR 2 MEDIUM GRAIN RICE. HADDAD UNDERSTANDS FULLY THAT TAFCO RICE TENDER MUST CONFORM TO PA. AGATT DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH HADDAD TAFCO'S ORIGINAL RICE TENDER POINTING OUT POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREAS FOR US SUPPLIERS, PARTICULARLY PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIREMENTS AND OFFER VALIDITY PERIOD WHICH IS UNREASONABLY LONG AND WOULD EXPOSE SELLERS TO EXCESSIVE RISK. ALTHOUGH TAFCO EXTENDED ORIGINAL TENDER FEBRUARY 16 WITH CLOSING DATE NOW MARCH 5, AGATT HAS POINTED OUT THAT CCC CANNOT FINANCE PURCHASES MADE UNDER THIS TENDER AS ISSUED AND HADDAD SAID HE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS.

4. DURING VISIT TO GOCM AGATT RECEIVED COPY OF ITS CABLE TO SARG EMBASSY WASHINGTON REGARDING PA REQUEST. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CABLE;

"TELEGRAMME NO 383/4/1/S

"EMBASSY OF SYRIA WASHINGTON

"PROTOCOL DATED 20/11/974 STOP REQUIRED WHEAT IS US NO. 2 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT STOP PLUS GIVING US OPTION IMPORT TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND TONS WHITE HARD WHEAT WITHIN LIMIT OF QUANTITY STOP PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH USDA PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION TODAY OR TOMORROW STOP REGARDS.

LA DAMASCUS 19/2/1975 "ORGANISME CEREALES

"DIRECTOR GENERAL

NADIM IBRAHIM"

ABOVE MESSAGE IS SIMILAR TO EXT OF GOCM OFFICIAL NOTE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRANSMITTED PARA 1 REF B, AND WHICH ACCORDING TO GOCM WAS NEVER FORWARDED TO SARG EMBASSY WASHINGTON BY FOREIGN MINISTRY IN DAMASCUS.  
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GOCM STATED THEY WILL DO NOTHING ON ISSUANCE OF TENDER UNTIL PA IS ISSUED.

5. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT GOCM REQUESTED OPTION FOR WHITE WHEAT WILL IN NO WAY DELAY ISSUANCE OF WHEAT PA. AGATT HAS NO INFORMATION ON WHITE WHEAT AVAILABILITY UNDER TITLE I; HE COULD NOT ADVISE GOCM ACCORDINGLY. AGATT HAS INFORMED GOCM THAT HARD WHITE WHEAT HIGHER PRICED,

GENERALLY SHIPPED FROM WEST COAST AND THUS TRANSPORTA-  
TION COSTS TO SYRIA HIGHER, AND THAT IT IS NOT BEST CLASS  
OF WHEAT FOR BREAD PURPOSES. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY  
DISAPPOINTMENT IF USDA DOES NOT GRANT OPTION OR, IF GRANTED,  
THAT GOCM WILL BUY WHITE WHEAT ONCE THEY OBTAIN FOB PRICES  
AND SHIPPING COSTS.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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